Government has received an appeal from Prof. Indira Goswami for "Peace Talks" with the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). The appeal indicated the willingness of ULFA to hold talks with the Government of India without pre-conditions, and also specifically referred to their 'core demand' of sovereignty. In reply to the appeal it was reiterated that the Government of India had consistently expressed its willingness to talk to all groups, which were prepared to abjure the path of violence.

Secret Meeting between PWG and ULFA

†2107. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a secret meeting was held between Naxalite leaders (PWG) and ULFA in Dhaka in October, 2004;

(b) any other information received by Government in this regard; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Kidnapping of NHPC Engineers

†2108. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the central point behind the incident of kidnapping of General Manager and Chief Engineer of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in Vaishali, Bihar on 20th November, 2004;

(b) the main motive for this kidnapping and the organization responsible mainly for the same; and

(c) what action Government of India are taking for the release of these two senior officials of NHPC from the kidnappers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The Government of Bihar has informed that an FIR was registered under sections 395/364A/120 of IPC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.